

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user to define custom metadata schemas, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a network accessible server with a metadata library comprising a plurality of metadata schemas;

(b) providing ~~form information to a client computer~~ for presenting a form-driven user interface that allows the user to specify, without using syntax required by an underlying specification language, a plurality of properties, including constraints supported by the underlying specification language, to thereby define a custom metadata schema; and

(c) storing the custom metadata schema in the metadata library.

2 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further including the step of:

(d) allowing the user to search the metadata library to select at least one of the metadata schemas to apply to an electronic resource.

3 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

(i) providing the server with management capabilities that allows a user to define metadata schemas, add references to the library to metadata schemas existing external to the metadata library, and set user permissions for the metadata schemas in the library.

4 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein step (a) (i) further includes the step of: adding references to external metadata schemas by providing a universal resource indicator and name of the metadata schema.

5 (Cancelled)

6 (Cancelled)

7 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) further includes the step of:

(i) allowing the user to define the custom metadata schema from an existing metadata schema.

8 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein step (b)(i) further includes the step of:

(1) allowing the user to search for the existing metadata schema by entering search criteria that include schema names and property names;

(2) displaying metadata schemas matching the search criteria;
and

(3) allowing the user to select properties from the displayed metadata schemas to add to the custom metadata schema.

9 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further including the step of: allowing the user to supply a software validator to enforce constraints beyond those supported by an underlying specification language, wherein the software validator is called when metadata associated with the schema is created or changed, but after constraints enforced by the specification language have been verified.

10 (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein step (d) further includes the step of: allowing the user to upload the resource to the server.

11 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein step (d) further includes the step of: allowing the user to specify which metadata schemas are required to be associated with particular resource types.

12 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein step (d) further includes the step of:

- (i) associating user account information with the resource type and required metadata schema information; and

- (ii) automatically applying required metadata schemas specified for the type of electronic resource when the server receives the resource by checking the user's account and retrieving the required metadata schemas specified for the resource type.

13 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: including in the metadata library a universal schema, shared schemas, and private schemas.

14 (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: requiring all images in the network to include metadata that is specified by the universal schema.

15 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further including the steps of allowing the user to assign a metadata instance to the resource by:

retrieving required metadata schemas specified for a resource type of the resource;

merging the retrieved metadata schemas and removing duplicate properties;

generating and displaying forms that allow the user to enter data values for the properties;

validating the data values based on schema constraints; and

associating the data values with the resource and saving.

16 (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing program instructions for allowing a user to define custom metadata schemas, the instructions for:

(a) providing a network accessible server with a metadata library comprising a plurality of metadata schemas;

(b) ~~providing form information to a client computer~~ for presenting a form-driven user interface that allows the user to specify, without using syntax required by an underlying specification language, a plurality of properties, including constraints supported by the underlying specification language, to thereby define a custom metadata schema; and

(c) storing the custom metadata schema in the metadata library.

17 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 further including the step of:

(d) allowing the user to search the metadata library to select at least one of the metadata schemas to apply to an electronic resource.

18 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of:

(i) providing the server with management capabilities that allows a user to define metadata schemas, add references to the library to metadata schemas

existing external to the metadata library, and set user permissions for the metadata schemas in the library.

19 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein instruction (a) (i) further includes the instruction of: adding references to external metadata schemas by providing a universal resource indicator and name of the metadata schema.

20 (Cancelled)

21 (Cancelled)

22 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of:

(i) allowing the user to define the custom metadata schema from an existing metadata schema.

23 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein instruction (b)(i) further includes the instruction of:

(1) allowing the user to search for the existing metadata schema by entering search criteria that include schema names and property names;

(2) displaying metadata schemas matching the search criteria;
and

(3) allowing the user to select properties from the displayed metadata schemas to add to the custom metadata schema.

24 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 further including the instruction of:

allowing the user to supply a software validator to enforce constraints beyond those supported by an underlying specification language, wherein the software validator is called when metadata associated with the schema is created or changed, but after constraints enforced by the specification language have been verified.

25 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein instruction (d) further includes the instruction of: allowing the user to upload the resource to the server.

26 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein instruction (d) further includes the instruction of: allowing the user to specify which metadata schemas are required to be associated with particular resource types.

27 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26 wherein instruction (d) further includes the instruction of:

- (i) associating user account information with the resource type and required metadata schema information; and

- (ii) automatically applying required metadata schemas specified for the type of electronic resource when the server receives the resource by checking the user's account and retrieving the required metadata schemas specified for the resource type.

28 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: including in the metadata library a universal schema, shared schemas, and private schemas.

29 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: requiring all images in the network to include metadata that is specified by the universal schema.

30 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 further including the instructions of allowing the user to assign a metadata instance to the resource by:

- retrieving required metadata schemas specified for a resource type of the resource;

- merging the retrieved metadata schemas and removing duplicate properties;

- generating and displaying forms that allow the user to enter data values for the properties;

- validating the data values based on schema constraints; and

- associating the data values with the resource and saving.

31 (Currently Amended) A metadata management system, comprising:

- a plurality of client computers, wherein each client computer stores respective resources; and

- a server in communication with the client computers over a network, the server including:

- a metadata library containing a plurality of metadata schemas, each metadata schema comprising a plurality of properties and constraints on values the properties may have, and

- a Web application for providing ~~form information to a client computer~~ for presenting a form-driven user interface that allows the user to specify, without using syntax required by an underlying specification language, a plurality of properties, including constraints supported by the underlying specification language, to thereby define a custom metadata schema for storage in the metadata library.

32 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the Web application further functions to allow the user to search the metadata library to select at least one of

the metadata schemas to apply to the resources, such a wherein the user uploads one of the resources to the server, the selected metadata schemas are applied to the resource.

33 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the server includes management capabilities that allows a user to define metadata schemas, add references to the library to metadata schemas existing external to the metadata library, and set user permissions for the metadata schemas in the library.

34 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33 wherein the user adds references to external metadata schemas by providing a universal resource indicator and name of the metadata schema.

35 (Cancelled)

36 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein Web application allows the user to define the custom metadata schema from an existing metadata schema.

37 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36 wherein the Web application allows the user to define the custom metadata schema from an existing metadata schema by:

- allowing the user to search for the existing metadata schema by entering search criteria that include schema names and property names,

- displaying metadata schemas matching the search criteria, and

- allowing the user to select properties from the displayed metadata schemas to add to the custom metadata schema.

38 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 further including a software validator running on client appears to enforce constraints beyond those supported by an underlying specification language, wherein the software validator is called when metadata associated with the schema is created or changed, but after constraints enforced by the specification language have been verified.

39 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the user is allowed to specify which metadata schemas are required to be associated with particular resource types.

40 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39 wherein the Web application associates user account information with the resource type and required metadata schema information, and to the required metadata schemas specified for the type of electronic resource are automatically applied when the server receives the resource by checking the user's account and retrieving the required metadata schemas specified for the resource type.

41 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the metadata library includes a universal schema, shared schemas, and private schemas.

42 (Original) The system of claim 41 wherein requiring all resources stored on the server are required to include metadata that is specified by the universal schema.

43 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the user is allowed to assign a metadata instance to the resource by:

- retrieving required metadata schemas specified for a resource type of the resource;

- merging the retrieved metadata schemas and removing duplicate properties;

generating and displaying forms that allow the user to enter data values for the properties;

validating the data values based on schema constraints; and

associating the validated data values with the resource and saving.